

STATE SENATOR • MARK SCHAUER • 19TH DISTRICT

Schauer Press Release



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Schauer Sponsors Water Quality Bill to Make Polluters Pay

LANSING – State Senator Mark Schauer (D-Battle Creek) today joined colleagues in the Senate and House to announce new legislation to hold polluters accountable, save taxpayer dollars, and clean up Michigan waterways.

Schauer's bill (SB 250) is part of a bicameral bill package that coordinates the administration and enforcement of the federal National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program. His bill creates a water quality fund that will be used for the administration and enforcement of the state's wastewater permit program and its water quality monitoring. Surpluses in the fund will be used to clean up contaminated waterways.

"Water defines our state. It is what makes Michigan so special and why we must take every step possible to protect our natural resources for future generations," Schauer said. "Michigan can do more to hold polluters accountable and prevent taxpayers from footing the bill to clean up contamination dumped into our lakes and streams."

Michigan is one of only eight states in the nation that does not charge for wastewater pollution permits. Currently the state budget covers a large percentage of the costs to administer the wastewater permit program. Under this new legislation, the permit program will generate millions in revenue to lessen the burden on the state's budget and taxpayers.

The Senator's bill is part of a four-bill Senate package. The other bills will create financial incentives to encourage companies to either reduce or eliminate pollution.

Schauer is the Senate Democratic Floor Leader. He represents the 19th Senate District, which includes all of Calhoun County and most of Jackson County.

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